

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered in this application. Original claims 1-9 have been cancelled, and new claims 10-23 have been added. A substitute specification is filed herewith, in order to place the application text into conventional U.S. format and to correct a number of minor informalities, including substituting in some instances more commonly used terminology for some of the elements/steps of the disclosed invention. It is submitted that no new matter has been added in the substitute specification.

The new set of claims has been drafted taking into consideration the matters noted in the Office Action with regard to Section 112, and the new claims are free of the language to which the PTO referred. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Official Action that original claims 5-7 are directed to subject matter that is deemed to patentably distinguish over the prior art. New claims 18-20 correspond to original claims 5-7 written in independent form, with a few minor editorial and terminology corrections being made in the new claims. It is believed that claims 18-20 are in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Original claims 1-4 and 8-9 were rejected as being anticipated by Mittelstrass '174. Although these claims have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejection, Applicants respectfully disagree that Mittelstrass '174 anticipates either the original claims or the newly presented claims 10-17 and 21-23. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The claims in this application call for a condenser structure in which both ends of a collector are closed by means of *non-detachably applied* closure members. Thus, in the condenser of the invention, the dryer/filter cartridge is not

replaceable. This relationship is believed to be clearly articulated in all of the newly submitted claims.

The Mittelstrass patent, on the other hand, does not disclose such a structure. The goal of the invention is "to provide an insert of the type generally described above having a dryer cartridge which can be handled and exchanged by simplified means." (col. 1, lines 36-38) For this purpose, the Mittelstrass device has a collector in which one end is closed by a *removable* closure member, i.e., threaded closure cap or lid 5. In no instance is the dryer cartridge in Mittelstrass connected to a non-detachable closure member, for indeed such a measure would thwart the purpose of the patent to provide for simplified exchange or replacement of the cartridge. Thus, for these several reasons, the Mittelstrass patent does not disclose a condenser structure that literally satisfies the language of the claims in the present application, i.e., the claims are not anticipated.

Similarly, the method recited in new claims 22 and 23 further highlights the differences between the present invention and that of Mittelstrass. The method steps are directly contrary to the teachings of the Mittelstrass reference.

Further, inasmuch as a modification of Mittelstrass to produce the structure called for in the present application claims would be directly contrary to the stated purpose of the Mittelstrass invention, it is also the case that Mittelstrass cannot be said to "teach" the present invention.

In view of the foregoing facts and observations, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of newly presented claims 10-23 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

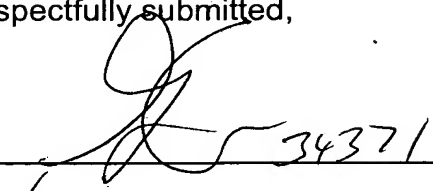
If Examiner Ali believes that a telephonic interview is needed to resolve any minor remaining issues, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the resolution and allowance of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.